

SPECIAL GROUP, 5412, APRIL 12, 1962

General discussion of the question of policy on launchings. It was decided that all launchings would be registered and that the present restriction on the registering with the UN of satellites which are only temporarily in orbit would be lifted. However, it was agreed that we would make no announcement as to our policy concerning the registration of all launchings in the future. Defense made a strong plea to avoid commitment because they anticipate that the Soviets have capability to intercept satellites that we will have to launch clandestinely. Johnson made a strong appeal to register everything to (1) establish freedom of outer space; (2) failure to register some launchings will highlight that we are hiding something; and (3) he questioned whether we would resort to clandestine launchings. However, after due consideration the action mentioned above was taken.

Discussion of the McCloy papers. Johnson agreed that these papers should be prepared by State and CIA jointly. He anticipated State would do the initial drafting and then collaborate with CIA. Action: We should follow closely and be prepared to discuss with McCloy no later than the last week of April.

cc: DAD/C/SI
AC/DPD

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